

Keeping in Touch



News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029, (213) 464-5100.

JULY, 1990

May, 1990 Top 20 Tithes

1.	MCC Dallas.....Dallas, TX	\$3,830.28
2.	MCC Washington.....Washington, DC	2,636.83
3.	Church/Holy Spirit MCC...Ft Lauderdale, FL	2,505.70
4.	MCC of the Resurrection.....Houston, TX	2,126.34
5.	All God's Children MCC.....Minneapolis, MN	2,012.55
6.	MCC Long Beach.....Long Beach, CA	1,954.26
7.	MCC San Francisco.....San Francisco, CA	1,774.00
8.	MCC in the Valley.....N Hollywood, CA	1,719.08
9.	MCC Toronto.....Ontario, CAN	1,618.94
10.	MCC San Diego.....San Diego, CA	1,564.09
11.	King of Peace MCC.....St Petersburg, FL	1,405.05
12.	MCC Los Angeles.....Culver City, CA	1,398.68
13.	MCC of the Rockies.....Denver, CO	1,385.64
14.	First MCC of Kansas.....Wichita, KS	1,256.49
15.	River City MCC.....Sacramento, CA	1,066.84
16.	New Life MCC of Tidewater.....Norfolk, VA	991.54
17.	Church of the Trinity MCC.....Sarasota, FL	985.69
18.	MCC Tampa.....Tampa, FL	938.81
19.	Agape MCC of Ft Worth.....Ft Worth, TX	898.88
20.	St. Luke's MCC.....Jacksonville, FL	842.48

May, 1990 Top 20 Per Capita

1.	MCC Ottawa ECM.....Ontario, CAN	46.95
2.	Alleluia MCC.....Calgary, Alberta, CAN	46.36
3.	New Covenant MCC.....Anaheim, CA	42.85
4.	MCC Rockville.....Rockville, MD	25.95
5.	MCC Philadelphia.....Philadelphia, PA	25.73
6.	MCC in El Paso.....El Paso, TX	25.63
7.	MCC of Northern Virginia.....Oakton, VA	24.04
8.	Christ the Redeemer MCC.....Evanston, IL	24.01
9.	Calvary MCC.....Redwood City, CA	23.90
10.	MCC Santa Cruz.....Santa Cruz, CA	23.51
11.	New Life MCC.....Berkeley, CA	23.31
12.	Mid-Cities MCC.....Arlington, TX	23.21
13.	Gentle Shepherd MCC.....Scottsdale, AZ	21.74
14.	Friendship MCC.....Shreveport, LA	21.53
15.	Open Arms MCC.....Rochester, NY	20.38
16.	Christ Alive MCC.....Vancouver, BC, CAN	21.28
17.	Christos MCC.....Toronto, Ontario, CAN	19.77
18.	All Saints MCC.....Atlanta, GA	19.41
19.	Church of the Trinity MCC.....Sarasota, FL	19.20
20.	Diablo Valley MCC.....Concord, CA	19.16

Praises

Rev. Dee Lamb of Louisville, KY, received her Master of Divinity in graduation ceremonies from Houston Graduate School of Theology in early May. Congratulations on your graduation, Dee!

MCC of Washington, DC has announced the Ground Breaking Ceremonies for their new church building, Saturday, July 21, 1990. The day will begin with a barbeque at 2 and the ground breaking itself at 4:30. Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Rev. Elder Don Eastman, Elder Larry Rodriguez, and many other special guests will be there. Please join with MCC of Washington in Spirit and in Prayer on this special day. Congratulations, and God's blessings on your continued ministry.

Congratulations to all of our Samaritan Graduates who received their diplomas at Commencement Services, held June 8th at MCC Los Angeles, Culver City, CA. Those receiving diplomas were:

Val Burke - MCC Los Angeles, Culver City, CA
Gina Chapman - MCC Los Angeles, Culver City, CA
Steven Moore - MCC in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA
Kathy Patrick - MCC Long Beach, CA
Pat Piccari - MCC in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA
Gene Sir Louis - Los Angeles, CA
Juanita Terlisner-Wiley - MCC Tucson, AZ

Also Congratulations to Rev. Elder Freda Smith who received an Honorary Doctorate from Samaritan College at the Commencement services.

Prayers

Prayers for MCC Silverlake and the family and friends of Rev. Brad Anderson who died around 1:00 AM June 6, 1990. Please keep Brad's spouse Bob Byrnes in your prayers as he is doing fairly well on AZT, but now must deal with this immense loss. Cards of love and support can be sent to Bob Byrnes, 1851 N. Alexandria Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

Please keep in prayer those who need our love and support: Rev. Ron Bergeron, Rev. Emmett Watkins, Rev. Ron Russell-Coons, Rev. Jim Harris, Rev. Dave Presley.

Prayers are requested for the Board of Elders Meeting, July 30 - August 4 in Phoenix, AZ at The Pointe.

The Evangel Project

Jesus said, "Go, and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). We know that many times it's impossible to go physically, so we "go" with prayer, fasting and finance. The Youth Ministries Division of the Department of Christian Education at Redeemer MCC of Flint, Michigan, has established its own "Evangel Project." Each week in a time of praise and worship, an offering is taken for the youth ministries Evangel Project, which automatically is earmarked for World Church Extension. In addition, the youth of Redeemer MCC via the Evangel Project, are now raising funds, which will be sent to an independent agency, to print Russian language bibles for distribution in the Soviet Union.

The spiritual and physical needs of our world are discussed regularly in Redeemer's three youth ministries classes. Redeemer's beginner, primary/middler, and junior classes also raise funds for the annual "World Evangelism Month" held each February, and were instrumental in enabling Redeemer MCC to raise over \$500 last February for WCE, in addition to WCE's allotment in the church's annual budget. If you are a Youth Ministries/Sunday School leader, consider establishing your own Evangel Project.

If you would like information on the Evangel Project please write to Marty Wright, c/o Redeemer MCC of Flint, 1665 N. Chevrolet Ave., Flint, MI 48504; (313) 238-6700.

New Church in Boca Raton, Florida

The Church of Our Savior MCC, of Boca Raton, Florida, an extension of The Church of the Holy Spirit MCC in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, opened its doors the end of May for a special service of Blessing at its beautiful Boca site. A capacity gathering of 132 women and men filled the Sanctuary to sing hymns, listen to music provided by the choirs of each Church and hear an inspiring message and prayer of blessing by the Rev. Elder Don Eastman.

Rev. John Jacobs, the Pastor of "Our Savior MCC" read an impressive list of thank yous, including a special thanks to the Rev. Grant Lynn Ford of "Holy Spirit" for his help and the help of his congregation in making the new Church possible. Participating in the service and representing the Dade County Churches was Rev. Tom Gatlin, Pastor of Grace MCC, N. Miami Beach, Florida.

In his closing remarks, Rev. Jacobs announced that services will be held each Sunday at 11 a.m. The address of the new church is 4770 C N.W. 2nd Avenue (just off Yamato in The Plaza). For more details call (305) 462-2004 at "Holy Spirit MCC".

News From The European Forum

At the 8th Annual Congress of the European Forum for Lesbian and Gay Christian Groups, Paul Scroxton from Manchester, England, was elected President for the next two years. The presidency is shared with Berget Newman, from East Germany, who is already in office. Paul who has been the European Representative for the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement since 1984, has previously served on the Forum's Secretariat from 1985-89. Paul was formerly Assistant Pastor of MCC London, and is currently the director of the European North Sea District's Outreach Ministries program, where he is developing new works in North West England.

The Forum was attended by sixty delegates from thirty organizations representing twelve countries. During the Forum a delegation, of which Mr. Scroxton was a part, was received by the Mayor of Strasbourg, for what were very positive informal talks. Among the guests of the forum was former Jesuit priest, Prof. John McNeill, who, when challenged on his opinion of 'gay churches,' commended the work of Metropolitan Community Churches.

MCC San Diego "Twenty Years of Faith"

The Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego celebrated "Twenty Years of Faith" with a banquet, a garden party and special worship services the weekend of June 1-3. The Church was founded in 1970, two years after Rev. Troy Perry founded the mother church of UFMCC in Los Angeles. MCC San Diego was the first chartered church in UFMCC.

Special guests for this celebration included Rev. Elder Troy Perry; San Diego Mayor Maureen O'Connor; Congressman Jim Bates; Assemblymember Peter Chacon; County Supervisor Leon Williams; Kimberly Briggs, assistant to Assemblymember Lucy Killea; Rev. Don Pederson, Southwest District Coordinator; Rev. Ed Hansen; Rev. Robert Ard, and Rev. E. Vaughn Lyons of the San Diego Ecumenical Conference.

The Anniversary Concert and Garden Party held on June 2nd was hosted by Michael A. Nauert, director of administration and music, and featured musical performances by Rev. Ken Caton, formerly of MCCSD and now of All God's Children MCC in Minneapolis, MN; Marsha Stevens of Ocean of Life MCC, Costa Mesa, CA; Terry Wheeler, formerly a member of MCCSD and currently of MCC Los Angeles, CA; Ed Thorson; Sharon Fields; Max Chodos; Reveille, a singing group; Timothy Rivers; Michael A. Nauert; and Joyful Noise Choir of MCCSD.



SAMARITAN COLLEGE NEWS

JUNE, 1990

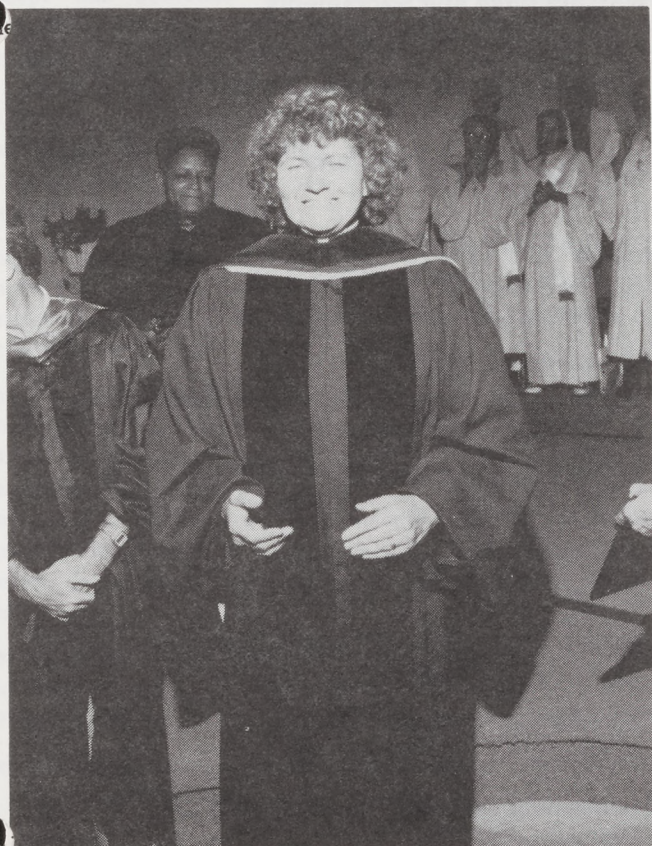
SEVEN RECEIVE BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN LOS ANGELES

Seven graduates received Bachelor's Degrees from Samaritan College during the Commencement Service, Friday, June 8th at MCC Los Angeles. It was a high and holy affair witnessed by over 100 family, friends, faculty and Trustees.

Elder Freda Smith brought the Commencement Address, "Who Will Care? Who Will Go?" Elder Smith directed the new graduates to recognize the effects of "cataclysmic change" in the world and instructed them to seek out new and diverse opportunities for witness in a constantly challenging world.

The Degrees were conferred by Dean Sandra Robinson and President Sherre Boothman. Rev. Willie White, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Tom Reveley, and Barbara Ferguson attended and greeted the graduates as they received their degrees while President Boothman told brief anecdotal stories about each graduate.

Elder Freda Smith, who has a Bachelor's Degree cum laude and a Master's Degree in Psychology, received an honorary Doctor of Ministry Degree from President Boothman.



Elder Freda Smith, after receiving the honorary Doctor of Ministry Degree from President Sherre Boothman



CONGRATULATIONS SAMARITAN COLLEGE GRADUATES CLASS OF '90 L - R: Stephen J. Moore, MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood; Gene Sir Louis, Washington, D.C.; Rev. - Elect Gina Chapman, MCC Los Angeles; Valerie Burke, MCC Los Angeles; Patricia Piccari, MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood; Kathleen Patrick, MCC Long Beach, California; Juanita Terlisner-Willy (not shown) MCC Tucson, Arizona.

NOTES FROM THE DEAN

Greetings to you all! It has been two months since the Samaritan College appeal went to the churches and here is follow-up information on our school's progress:

- To date, Samaritan has received nearly \$2,000.00 in cash and nearly \$1,000.00 in pledges. The school has received nearly \$5,000.00 of the \$12,000.00 in pledges made at General Conference last year. The cash received from pledges is paying College overhead during the summer months.
- The Toronto Orientation Program had to be cancelled; however, the Tulsa and Los Angeles Orientation to MCC Pastoring Programs have 52 students registered to date. This year, churches and districts have contributed over \$5,000.00 in loans and grants to Orientation students.

THANK YOU UFMCC FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

(Continued on reverse side)

NOTES FROM THE DEAN

(Continued from front page)

- Thank you messages are running late due to staff shortage, but I commit to all of you who have made contributions that you will hear from me.
- Many thanks to the Southwest District EXCEL team which has come forward with volunteers to assist with Orientation in Los Angeles. Thanks to Rev. Alice Jones and her staff for their hard work making the Tulsa Orientation Program a great success. Thanks to Rev. La Paula Turner for her invaluable assistance at this time and to Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson and the Board of Directors and Staff of MCC Los Angeles - especially Glen Payne, Troy Fernandez, Barbara Bagwell and Barbara Dirisio for their hard work during these difficult months. Thanks to all the staff at UFMCC headquarters for their patience - especially Ravi Verma, Farley Peterson, Nancy Fackrell-Allen, Nathan Meckley and Gene Van Horn.
- Rev. Bob Arthur is doing excellent work as Correspondence Course Administrator and is also working on an exciting new book! Please keep him in

your prayers. It is becoming impossible for him to survive economically on the meager stipends he receives from Samaritan College and MCC New Covenant.

- The Samaritan College 1990 - 91 catalog will be published quite late this year but should be in your church mid-August. Thank you for your patience in this transition year. The curriculum team that will be developing our catalog will be Rev. Ken Martin, Rev. Brenda Hunt, Rev. Colleen Darraugh and Rev. Harry Stock. JoNee Shelton, Director of the Commission on the Laity will be available to them as a resource person. Please keep them in your prayers.
- The rumor is not a rumor. The Samaritan College Board of Trustees met June 7th and it is true that a study is being made to determine the feasibility of moving Samaritan's main campus to the metroplex in Texas. Let us know your thoughts.
- Effective July 1, 1990, President Sherre Boothman will resign as President and member of the Board of Trustees so that she can focus fully on her exciting and effective ministry as Pastor of MCC in the Valley. Sherre will, however, continue as an invaluable biblical scholar and faculty at the College.

ORIENTATION TO MCC PASTORING - 1990

SCHEDULE FOR LOS ANGELES PROGRAM: July 16 - August 26, 1990

Personal Profile System

Dean Sandra Robinson

Pastoral Counseling

Rev. Steve Pieters

Sexuality Counseling

Rev. Shelley Hamilton

Prison Ministry

Rev. Ro Halford

Christian Education

Rev. Kittridge Cherry

Dynamics of Oppression:

Track I instructor: Bernard Barbour

Track II instructor: Rev. Darlene Garner

AIDS In The Minority Communities

Dee Simpson

White People Healing Racism

Cari Bourette, Rev. Marianne Van Fossen

Visit to the Holocaust "Simon Wiesenthal" Museum

Preaching

Rev. Jimmy Brock

Lay Ministries Seminar

Elder Larry Rodriguez

Spiritual Life and Health

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson

Worship Rites and Sacraments

Rev. Jim Mitulski and Rev. Coni Staff

Seminar: African American Traditions of Worship and Preaching

Church Growth Symposium

Ravi Verma

Church Administration

Track I: Rev. Wendy Foxworth

Track II: Rev. Arlene Ackerman

District Administration

Panelists: Rev. Don Pederson, Rev. La Paula Turner, Rev. Bob Arthur

Responsible Pastoral Care to the Homeless

Sharon Parker

Accessibility issues in the Church

Rev. Houston Burnside

Interfaith Approach to Pastoral Identity

Rev. Denis Moore

Day with the Founder

Rev. Elder Troy Perry

Maintaining Self Esteem and Health

Rev. La Paula Turner

Substance Abuse Issues

Rev. Thomas Walker

Mayor O'Connor, in a congratulatory letter to MCC San Diego, noted the church's "quintessential reputation as a leader in the struggle for the rights and human dignity of everyone, especially the gay and lesbian community. The spiritual and social outreach of the church has blessed San Diego through the sharing of a message of hope, compassion, love and understanding."

Convocation of Prison Ministries

During the week of June 2-6, 1990, Rev. Ro Halford, UFMCC Department of Church Services, attended a week-long Convocation of Prison Ministries. This was the 11th Annual Meeting. The Convocation was begun by the Catholic Church and is opening up more and more to other denominations, as well.

Rev. Halford was not certain, initially, how well she might be received, and entered the week-long meetings with some reservation. However, at the Business meeting on Wednesday, June 6th, there was no longer any doubt about her reception into the organization. On the floor of the business meeting Rev. Halford "came out" to the entire organization. While discussion was in progress about a new Mission Statement, Ro went to the microphone and addressed the membership, by saying she could not accept one sentence of the Mission Statement. And, therefore, could not be a member of the Convocation. The sentence stated that the Convocation "...adheres to the ...Roman Catholic tradition." Rev. Halford went on to say, she is a Christian woman who is a lesbian, and that the Roman Catholic Church condemns her. After she finished speaking there was a good deal of applause in support of her statement.

The sentence was changed to reflect the universal Christian church, not just Roman Catholic tradition. Praise God! It's a small dent in a greater picture, but, it's a start!

The week-long workshops and speakers were excellent! Most of the speakers during the week were women. The Sisters attending the Convocation were powerful and challenging. One of the women proposed a letter be sent to all U.S. Bishops seeking recognition for all persons doing prison chaplaincy work. Thus far, women in the Roman Catholic Church are not acknowledged as Prison Chaplains.

The entire Convocation went to the Criminal Courts building in downtown Los Angeles, CA on Tuesday, June 5, 1990 and held a rally against the death penalty.

Rev. Halford also met a Catholic priest who helped to get a Dignity chapter started in Oregon.

All, in all, it was a successful and rewarding venture for Rev. Halford and for UFMCC. We really are everywhere!

Who's Who

Congratulations to Rev. Dee Dale who recently received recognition by being placed in the WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP, (1989 Edition).

The write up on Rev. Dale consists of many of her achievements in the past years. Under Outstanding Accomplishments it reads, "Been very active with the Community Health Trust; Produce a weekly television program called "More Christians Caring" (1984)". And under Career Summary it reads, "Metropolitan Community Church, Louisville, KY, Music Coordinator (1982-83), Pastoral Leader (1983-84), Student Clergy (1984-86), Pastor (1986-present)".

Way to go, Dee! Keep up the good work, and may God continue to bless you and the ministry in Louisville, KY.

Report From: Department of People of Color - UFMCC

July 1990

The Executive Committee of the Department of People of Color met in Los Angeles just prior to the General Council Meeting. We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Bernard Barbour of the South Central District to the Executive Committee.

We appreciate the work of Mr. Rick Espinoza, Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids, MI. Rick has resigned from the Executive Committee after four years of service. His focus will now be on AIDS work in the Grand Rapids area.

We also appreciate the work of Ms. Belva Boone who has served on the Committee since 1988. Belva has decided to focus on her work in the District and in completing her education.

The Board of Elders appointed Rev. La Paula Turner as Executive Director of the Department through General Conference 1991. Rev. Turner just completed five years as District Coordinator of the Great Lakes District. She has been a member of the UFMCC since 1969 and an advocate for the Black Gay & Lesbian Community for many years. In February 1990, she was an advocate for the Black Gay & Lesbian Community with the Pomona San Gabriel Valley Gay & Lesbian Center, challenging the Southwest NAACP to consciously recognize the need to be inclusive of Black Gays and Lesbians and all Gay and Lesbian people.

(Continued next page)

Department of People of Color (Cont'd)

The Department is pleased to announce the 5th Biennial Conference this Fall, November 9-11, 1990 in Tulsa, OK. The theme of the Conference is: "Developing Leadership in Church and Society." The Conference is open to all people, there will be White People Healing Racism activities, facilitated by Ms. Judy Kiser, Chair of the White People Healing Racism Committee.

Our Keynote Speakers for the Conference are: Ms. Camille Bell of Atlanta, GA, and Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, Los Angeles, CA. Camille Bell was one of the Keynote Speakers at the Human Rights Banquet at the General Conference in St. Paul, MN. Rev. Elder Wilson is a member of the Board of Elders and is Pastor of the Mother Church, MCC Los Angeles.

The registration fee is \$110 per person, early registration by October 1, 1990; Late registration is \$125 after October 1, 1990. This registration fee includes the Friday Luncheon and the Saturday Night Banquet, when our Keynote Speakers will be speaking.

The site of the Conference is the Holiday Inn East, 1010 N. Garnett, Tulsa, OK 74116; 918/437-7660 (If you call please tell them you are with the People of Color - UFMCC Conference. Room rates are for 1 to 4 persons for \$39.00 plus \$4.31 tax totalling \$43.31. There is a courtesy shuttle to and from the airport! Each person is responsible to make their own room reservations, which must be made by October 1, 1990, so that the rooms will not be released to the General Public. Reservation Cards for the Hotel will be available, please check the appropriate box on the registration card if you would like a Hotel Reservation card sent to you.

The Conference begins at 9:00 am on Friday, November 9, 1990. Arrive on Thursday night, you don't want to miss the opening worship service.

The Department of People of Color exists to support people of color to actualize their personal and spiritual abilities to participate fully in the ministry of the UFMCC. This Department also exists to support reconciliation between white people and people of color. This Department is a standing program through UFMCC By-laws.

Too many people still ask, "Why does this Department exist?" or "Why do people of color have to separate from whites in meetings and conferences?" To ask questions like these is to ignore the devastating effects of oppression. We all know that as we are alienated and excluded from the whole, the first healthy instinct is to seek out and bond with others like ourselves...i.e., UFMCC, women, differently-abled, people with AIDS, Gays and Lesbians and people of color. We form mutually supportive systems of people who can relate to our pain and our joy in order to affect healing in a predominately white structured world and a predominately white male led denomination.

The Biennial Conference is and always has been an effort to educate, network and uplift each other and subsidize the meager annual allotment of the Department. Thank you for your support!

ENCLOSED: News from Dean Rev. San Robinson/Samaritan College and A Flyer from Church Services announcing the reprint of David Day's Book, Things They Never Told You In Sunday School!

PEOPLE OF COLOR - UFMCC
5th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
"Building Leadership in Church and Society"
(This Conference is open to People of Color (P.O.C.)
and to White People Healing Racism (W.P.H.R.)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

(Please check one): P.O.C. _____ W.P.H.R. _____

Registration Fee: Early Reg. \$110 (sent by October 1, 1990) \$ _____
Late Reg. \$125 (sent after October 1, 1990) \$ _____
(Please make your check or money order payable to DPOC in UFMCC)

[] Would like Hotel Reservation Card

Please send this form with payment to: Department of People of Color
5300 Santa Monica Blvd. #304
Los Angeles, CA 90029

For additional information please call: 818/576-1282
